DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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2. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. TITLE: (U) Political - Junior Army Officers View of Argentine Situation

4. PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

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15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.~~

DIRC YES ☐ NO ☒

✓

16. SUMMARY:
(U) This IR forwards information developed from a survey of junior officers attending the Army Superior War School (ESG) regarding problems facing Argentina.

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None

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21. This IR contains 3 pages.

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22 DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ On 16 June, Sec. 3.3(b) (1) he had taken a poll of student officers in the second year of the Superior War School (while ESG is a 3 year course, there is no 3rd year course this year because of officer requirements of military government) regarding their perceptions of what problems were currently facing Argentina. The group included about 70 officers (senior captains and junior majors).

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The students perceived as the greatest problem facing Argentina the expansionist movement by Brazil in Latin America. They further defined Brazilian activities as deliberate efforts to influence peasants in Bolivia and the application of pressure on the Paraguayan government. They added that Brazilians were becoming much too influential in the Argentine Province of Misiones and that steps should be taken to curb Brazilian encroachments in that zone. Finally, they perceived Brazilian advances in the field of nuclear energy as a threat to Argentina and suggested that steps should be taken to slow down Brazilian development.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The ESG class was also concerned about smuggling and contraband operations in Formosa Province and felt that this "public secret" was a disgrace. ~~Since~~ Argentina is losing valuable revenues because of these illegal activities and they felt that the government should move to stop them.

4. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Recent terrorist assassinations of retired military personnel were particularly disturbing to the student officers. They believed that government propaganda was lulling the public into complacency at a time when the terrorists were becoming more dangerous since they were cornered. They criticized the government's psychological action program and felt that it required more coordination in order to become effective and to portray an accurate picture of the current terrorist threat.

5. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ The officers were troubled that the new "Dialogue" announced by the government might be used to divert attention from the Graiver and ALUAR investigations. The students are anxious to see these national scandals put to rest and the guilty brought to justice. In that regard, the captains and majors were critical of the army high command for not publicly chastizing three retired army officers who were responsible for illegal activities in the past. They included BG (R) IÑIGUEZ (former police chief under PERON), BG (R) FATIGATE (involved in the notorious Peronist check scandal) and Col (R) PERLINGER (who had been an active supporter of the Montonero terrorists group).

6. The ESG class expressed interest in several economic issues. They considered it to be shameful that teachers in Buenos Aires Province

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receive such poor wages. According to the officers, good education is essential to the "National Reorganization". They concluded that shabby treatment of the educational community by the government will have a disastrous effect on the nation and provide subversives with environment within which to work. The students were also disturbed by the government's activities with regard to government enterprises. Specifically, they believed that the Railroads and the National Petroleum Company (YPF) lack clearly defined objectives and that both firms must take positive steps to eliminate redundant employees and to institute efficient operations.

6. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ Finally, the junior officers were perturbed by recent activities of Navy Commander, Admiral MASSERA. They viewed his recent trips abroad (reportedly unauthorized by the Junta) as a divisive factor within the Armed Forces. They interpret MASSERA's activities as an attempt by the Navy to create problems for the army and particularly for LTG VIDELA.

COMMENT: ~~(C)~~ Although some of the ideas expressed by the ESG students are somewhat naive and possibly based on inaccurate information, it is probably an accurate reflection of what junior officers are thinking. Similar observations have been heard from other middle grade and junior officers in troop units. Junior officers are not often given the opportunity to express their opinions, yet they represent an influential sector in the Army. Although they offered no solutions or prescriptions for the problems they listed their perceptions are interesting and it would be prudent for senior officers to take note.

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